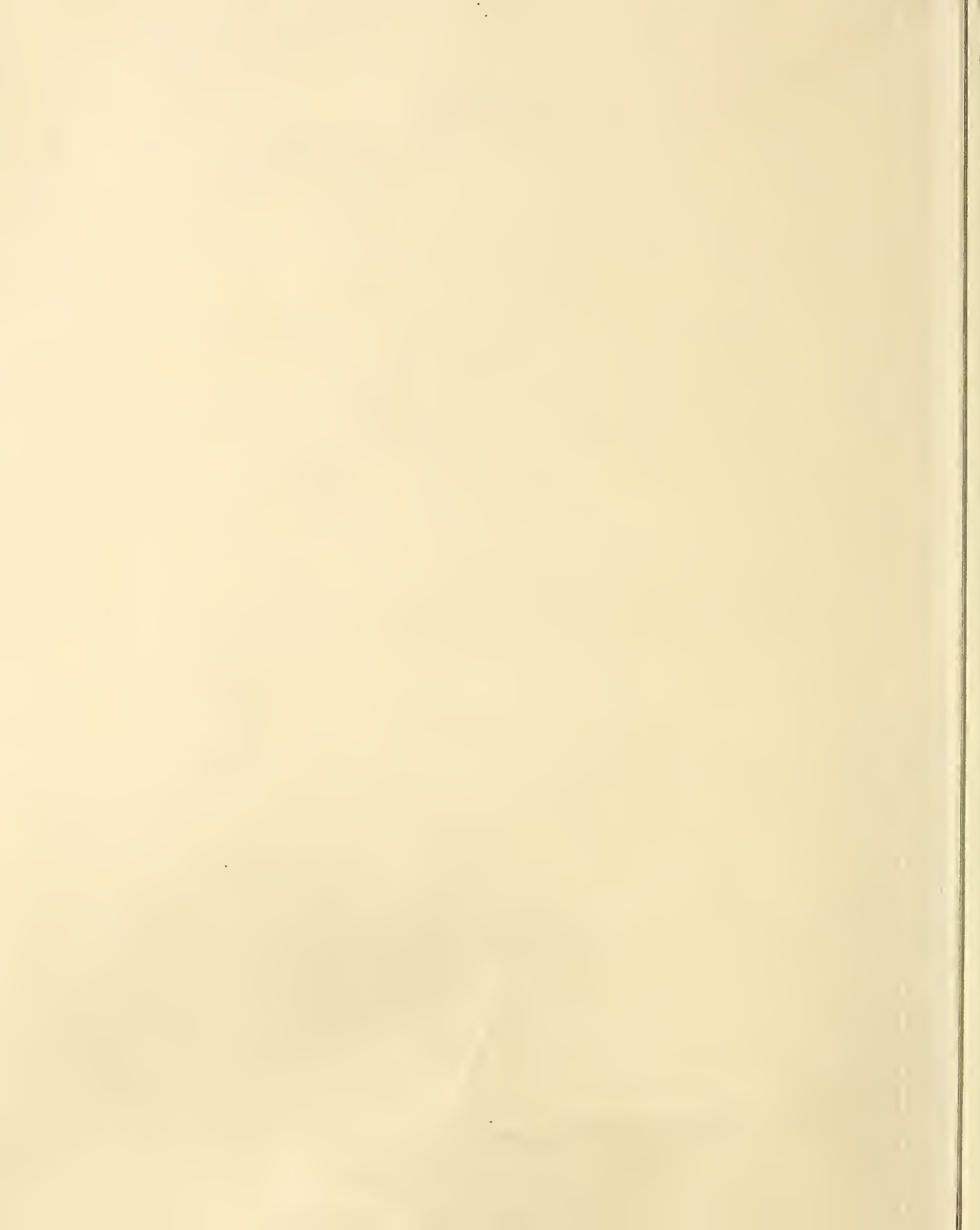


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Washington 25, D. C.

November 15, 1944

PROPOSED TRAINING PROJECT ON EGG GRADING

Background and Purpose

Abundance of eggs will likely be greater in the spring and summer of 1945 than in the corresponding period of 1944. Due to the responsibility of the War Food Administration to maintain shell egg prices at 90 percent of parity, the Federal Government may be compelled to purchase a much larger volume of eggs in 1945 than in 1944. Available labor was short of needs this past spring to grade eggs properly, both for Government purchases and purchases by commercial handlers for domestic distribution. The grading of eggs and the quality of eggs available to consumers suffered, accordingly, to the detriment of producers and to consumer confidence. Considering need, interest, and availability, it is proposed to train members of 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers and others in egg grading in order to help maintain the marketing of eggs on a sounder basis than at present. The training of these groups on grade standards, terminology, grading practice, and better marketing methods will be of emergency and long-time value to the poultry industry.

Objectives

- (1) To train 4-H Club members, Future Farmers, and others to grade eggs.
- (2) To organize a program of grader availability to assist farmers and market handlers of eggs.
- (3) To train graders for official egg-grading work.

Procedure:

- (1) Representatives of the Agricultural Extension Service, Agricultural Education Service, U. S. Office of Education, and the Dairy and Poultry Branch of the Office of Distribution, War Food Administration, will promote and help develop the proposed egg-grader training program in the several States.
- (2) The training program at the State level should be planned cooperatively by: Representatives of the State Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Extension Service, the State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, the State agency in charge of official egg-grading work, the War Food Administration, and other agencies and organizations that have a contribution to make to the training program. It is suggested

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that the State agency in charge of official egg-grading work call a meeting of representatives of these organizations to formulate an action program to inform persons on sound egg-marketing practices and especially to train persons to grade eggs.

- (3) Agricultural extension workers, vocational agriculture supervisors and teacher trainers, WFA supervisors of inspection and grading work, and others authorized by the State supervisor of official egg-grading work will conduct schools and demonstrations for members of Future Farmers and 4-H Clubs and adults, issue grades on skill, and provide the State grading supervisor with a list, including grades, of persons attending such schools.

Plans for the Training Program May Include

A State Egg Grading School (3 days) for Agricultural Extension Service personnel, including Home Economics Specialists, Vocational Agriculture Supervisors and Teacher Trainers, conducted by the State Supervisor of official egg-grading work assisted by the Regional War Food Administration Inspection and Grading Supervisor. The agenda of these schools might well include:

- (1) A resumé of the current poultry and egg marketing situation.
- (2) Explanation of Government purchase programs, such as the carlot and the 10-case programs, etc.
- (3) Explanation of all phases of Federal-State egg-grading work including the interpretation of U.S. Standards for Quality of Individual Shell Eggs, the Tentative U. S. Consumer, Procurement, and Wholesale Grades and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs, the preparation of grading certificates and other procedures relating to the grading and inspection of eggs.
- (4) Practice training in the grading of eggs by candling in accordance with U. S. Standards for Quality of Individual Eggs and the proper packaging materials required to pack eggs adequately, especially for offering eggs under Federal purchase programs.
- (5) Develop detailed plans for procedure, instruction, and facilities to conduct egg-grading schools, courses, and demonstrations for members of Future Farmer and 4-H Clubs and other persons who can profit by the instruction.